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2006 United Nations Population Award

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, established by the Assembly in its resolution 36/201. The report covers 2006 and was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112.

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Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the 2006 United Nations Population Award

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/201, entitled "Establishment of the United Nations Population Award". The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions or to any combination thereof for the most outstanding contribution to increasing awareness of population questions or to finding solutions to them.

2. The laureate is selected by the Committee for the United Nations Population Award, which is composed of representatives of 10 Member States of the United Nations elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years.

3. On 5 December 1986, by its decision 41/445, the General Assembly amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulations governing the Award (resolution 36/201, annex), so that an individual and an institution could share the Award.

4. On 26 May 1987, by its decision 1987/129, the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award accordingly.

5. During its 1st regular meeting, on 7 March 2006, the Committee for the United Nations Population Award re-elected Judith Mbula Bahemuka of Kenya as Chairperson.

6. At its 9th, 10th and 11th plenary meetings, on 10 and 12 May 2006, the Economic and Social Council elected the following five Member States for a three-year term on the Committee, beginning on 1 January 2007: Bangladesh, Haiti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Peru and Sweden.

7. The Council postponed the election of three members from the Group of African States, one member from the Group of Asian States and one member from the Group of Eastern European States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2007.

II. 2006 United Nations Population Award

8. A total of 26 nominations were received for the 2006 United Nations Population Award from qualified nominators. Of these, 17 were for the individual category and nine for the institutional category. On 12 April 2006, within the mandate given to it by the General Assembly, and after a thorough review of the nominations, the Committee selected Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter (Bangladesh) in the individual category and the Fondation pour la santé reproductive et l'éducation familiale in the institutional category.

9. Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter, Director-General, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, was selected for her significant involvement in epidemiological and clinical research in such areas as contraceptive effectiveness, reproductive health-care needs and services, studies of social and medical aspects of male

contraceptives, identification of factors associated with contraceptive failure, determinants and consequences of abortion in Bangladesh and assessments of maternal mortality in Bangladesh. As recognition for her scientific work in family planning and health service delivery, in 1995 Dr. Akhter received the Justus Liebig Award from the University of Giessen, Germany. In the course of her professional career, Dr. Akhter has been instrumental in promoting a better understanding of the risks and benefits of countless family-planning methods and technologies. She has also provided solid scientific knowledge for the incorporation of family planning methods and technologies into health systems at the community and national levels. A self-sufficient health model for young women was developed under her direction at Health Promotion Limited; this model was an effective strategy to confront maternal and child mortality at the community level.

10. The Fondation pour la santé reproductive et l'éducation familiale (FOSREF) was selected for its outstanding achievements in the field of reproductive health and the promotion of family life in Haiti. It was created in 1988 by Dr. Adeline Jocelyn Verly, a devoted physician specialized in public health issues. FOSREF began its operations with the creation of the Centre for Gynaecological Prevention and Family Education. Through a network of 26 local centres, FOSREF provides varied reproductive health services that cover more than 1.2 million persons and incorporate family-planning services and activities for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Through its long experience, FOSREF has identified various population targets for its activities: men and women of reproductive age, adolescents and young people, and particularly abandoned children and sex workers. Educational services are provided to community leaders, schoolteachers and the young population in general. Programmes for young people give emphasis to reproductive health and reproductive rights and are aimed at fostering sexual responsibility. FOSREF also offers a variety of other educational activities that include semi-professional training in art, cuisine, fashion, handicrafts and similar crafts.

III. Financial matters

11. As at 31 December 2005, the Trust Fund had a total fund balance of $739,231. Interest income in 2005 was $19,520. Expenditures in 2005, including the prizes, totalled $49,007. The interest income, as in previous years, fell below expenditure levels.